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17 November 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with the Secretary of Defense,  
16 November 1978

1. The Secretary gave me a debriefing on his trip to the Pacific and asked Admiral Hanson to send us some messages or trip reports.

a. He noted the Koreans were not uptight about the potential increase in the North Korean order of battle. They probably had carried those numbers anyway. In addition, he didn't discuss any specific numbers.

b. He noted that the Japanese were more willing to discuss military programs than ever before.



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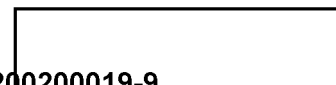
2. We talked about the budget and he complimented us on the fine way it had been done. He indicated he had not heard many complaints about specific programs. He was concerned with resolving the [redacted] issue (which really [redacted] and he was concerned with [redacted] but particularly with what OMB would do with the half-loaf which we gave to them.

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I specifically raised the issue of [redacted] and the importance of his and my staying in close consort so that both of us don't get caught with an end run on this issue. I promised him I would keep him posted on the progress of Hans Mark's study. I'd like to call for some kind of a sitrep for my next meeting with SecDef. It will be pretty

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close to the 1 December preliminary date for the study. It may be well, however, at the next meeting just to discuss what elements the study is covering so that we can understand what we're going to have to review before the final decisions.

3. I discussed the dates for our budget reviews with the President. He doesn't think they will be ready before the 18th, but it's fine with him if we go ahead on the 14th.

4. I discussed the [ ] situation. I made the following proposals:

[ ]

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5. I gave the rundown on the Somali situation.

6. I gave the rundown on the satellites. He asked me how accurate our knowledge is on the characteristics of the Soviet satellites and how we obtain it. Some 15 years ago when he was last familiar with this, he said we did our estimating based on our understanding of the state of the art in the Soviet Union. I'd like to know a little more about how we made our estimates and what our confidence in them is.

7. I delivered the draft outline of the IIM on Soviet Naval Readiness and asked for his views.

8. I didn't get to talk to him about any decisions he was facing. Would like to do that next time.

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